

# **AIRCRAFT DISPATCHER**

## **UNIT 1 – AIRCRAFT FLIGHT PLANNING**

### **LESSON D – POINT LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **STUDENT GUIDE**

---

#### **LESSON OBJECTIVES**

1. Identify two primary methods of describing a point location to a pilot.
2. Describe the difference between coordinates given in degrees/minutes/tenths and degrees/minutes/seconds.
3. Convert one type of coordinate to another.

## NOTES

## I. DESCRIBING LOCATIONS

### A. Geographic Locations

Geographic locations can be used to describe point locations.

The pilot and aircraft dispatcher must be familiar with the area.

Example: 5 miles south of Mount St. Helens

### B. Latitude and Longitude

1. World-wide methods of finding a location
2. Loran or Global Positioning Satellite (GPS)
3. Published on all aeronautical charts

4. Written or Spoken

- a. Degrees, minutes, seconds
- b. Degrees, minutes, tenths or hundredths, or thousandths
- c. Degrees, tenths, hundredths, thousandths, or greater

5. Converting Coordinates

a. Seconds to tenths:

- Seconds  $\div$  60 seconds = tenths

–  $15 \div 60 = .25$

- Tenths  $\times$  60 seconds = seconds

–  $.25 \times 60 = 15$

b. Basic Conversions:

<u>Seconds</u>	<u>Tenths</u>
15	.25
30	.50
45	.75
60	1.00

## COORDINATE CONVERSION EXERCISE

1. You have been given the following coordinates:

Latitude:  $43^{\circ}33'.85$  N

Longitude:  $116^{\circ}13'.37$  W

Convert the coordinates from tenths to seconds:

Latitude:

Longitude:

2. You have been given the following coordinates:

Latitude:  $43^{\circ}33'51''$  N

Longitude:  $116^{\circ}13'22''$  W

Convert the coordinates from seconds to tenths:

Latitude:

Longitude:

C. Township, Range, & Section (Legal)

Formally known as the Rectangular Land Description System

Planned in 1784 by the Continental Congress.

- “Public lands shall be divided by North and South lines and by other lines running East and West so as to form Townships 6 miles square (not 6 square miles, but a square of 6 miles on each side, with an area of 36 square miles).”
- “The Townships will be divided into 36 sections, and each will contain 640 acres (as nearly as possible).”

D. Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM)

UTM coordinates measure in meters east and north from two perpendicular reference baselines. A full UTM coordinate value defines a worldwide unique position.

E. VHF Omni-directional Range (VOR)

The VOR or VORTAC station transmits a unique signal allowing aircraft to determine its bearing relative to the VOR station.

## NOTES

## NOTES